Grade 2 – Science Pacing Calendar

Newsela: Seasonal STEAM Projects

(Grade 2)	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
September **Save the Bees (12 weeks) Start: 9/8/25** **Password: Habitat26**	**Beginning of the Year Assessments** **Newsela Link:** Engineering Design Process **Newsela link**: Science Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Activities Lab Safety	**Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** **2-LS2-1** – Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow. **Plant Needs** **Generation Genius:** Plants need water and light **Newsela:** A tree is alive (newsela.com) A tree's life (newsela.com) How farmers grow and harvest corn (newsela.com) Dandelion days (newsela.com) A rainbow of food (newsela.com) Our lemon tree (newsela.com)	**Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** **2-LS2-2** – Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants. **Plants and animals need each other for survival**. **Generation Genius:** Pollination and seed dispersal **Model:** Draw a diagram (model) showing how plants and animals need each other. For example, a Bee pollinating a flower, a small animal using a tree for shelter. **Newsela:** There's a balloon in my belly! (newsela.com) Busy beavers (newsela.com) How birds change their "clothes" (newsela.com)	**Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** **2-LS4-1** – Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. **Habitats** **Generation Genius:** Habitats **Newsela:** Sylvia Earle, underwater explorer (newsela.com) Meet the acorn woodpecker (newsela.com) **Science Benchmark**

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October **Made of Matter (8 weeks)** **Start: 10/13/25** **Password: Ada26**	**Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** **2-LS4-1** – Make observations to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. **Plants + animals in diverse habitats** **Literacy:** Create a flap book of animals in different habitats. **Newsela:** Study showed how snow monkeys learn — and teach — new tricks (newsela.com) Let's explore a farm (newsela.com) Meet the screech owl (newsela.com) Toddle Reflections	**Structure and Properties of Matter** **2-PS1-1** – Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties. **Properties of matter (observable features**) **Generation Genius:** Classification of materials **Activity:** Using various objects, have students sort them using their observation properties into a data table. The students should provide a explanation of how they sorted their materials. **Newsela:** Matter and Energy: What is matter? (newsela.com) Properties of matter (newsela.com)	**Structure and Properties of Matter** **2-PS1-2** – Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose. **Different properties are suited for different purposes** **Generation Genius:** Material properties and purposes **Activity:** Using their sorted materials, have the students explain how the properties make the materials good for an intended purpose. For example, popsicle sticks can make a good bird nest/house.	**Structure and Properties of Matter** **2-PS1-4** – Construct an argument with evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot. **Physical and Chemical Changes: how heat affects substances** **STEM Activity:** Heat and changes in matter **Newsela:** There are three phases of matter: solid, liquid and gas (newsela.com) Toddle Reflections
November **Earth's Features (13 weeks)** **Start: 11/17/25** **Password: Features26**	**Structures from Smaller Pieces** **2-PS1-3** – Make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how an object made of a small set of pieces can be disassembled and made into a new object. A great variety of objects can be built from a small set of pieces. **Engineering Design:** Using materials from a small structure, reassemble them to create larger structures.	**STEM Night** **November 13, 2025** Toddle reflections	**Earth's Systems: Processed that Shape the Earth** **2-ESS1-1** – Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly. **Earth's events occur quickly or slowly. The history of planet earth.** **Generation Genius:** Time scale of Earth's Events	**Earth's Systems: Processed that Shape the Earth** **2-ESS2-1** – Compare multiple solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land. **Wind and water change the shape of land. Earth materials and systems.** **Generation Genius:** Changing the shape of land **Newsela:** What makes wind? (newsela.com)

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				All about wind power (newsela.com)
December	**Earth's Systems: Processed that Shape the Earth** **2-ESS2-2** – Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area. **Shapes of lands and bodies of water** **Generation Genius:** Maps of landforms **Newsela:** Types of landforms on Earth (newsela.com) Landforms: Islands (newsela.com)	**Earth's Systems: Processed that Shape the Earth** **2-ESS2-1** – Compare multiple solutions designed to reduce Earth changes caused by natural processes. **Plate tectonics and large-scale system interactions.** **Generation Genius:** Oceans, lakes, and rivers **Newsela:** Bodies Of Water: Rivers (newsela.com) Bodies of water: oceans (newsela.com)	**Earth's Systems: Processed that Shape the Earth** **2-ESS2-3** – Obtain information to identify where water is found on Earth and that it can be solid or liquid. **Research**: Research and to obtain information and identify where water is found on earth and that it can solid or liquid **STEM Activity:** Where is water found and what form is it in?	Holiday Recess School Closed
January	Holiday Recess School Closed	**K-2-ETS1-1** – Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem. **STEM Activity:** Winter Wonders (Week 1)	**K-2-ETS1-1** – Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem. **STEM Activity:** Winter Wonders (Week 2)	**K-2-ETS1-1** – Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem. **STEM Activity:** Winter Wonders (Week 3)
February	**K-2-ETS1-2** – Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function. **STEM Activity:** Surviving the Winter (Week 1)	**K-2-ETS1-2** – Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function. **STEM Activity:** Surviving the Winter (Week 2)	Winter Recess School Closed	**K-2-ETS1-2** – Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function. **STEM Activity:** Surviving the Winter (Week 3)

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March	**Newsela:** Building with big machines (newsela.com) Building a new school (newsela.com)	**Newsela:** Early cars were not so speedy (newsela.com) A firefighter's toolkit (newsela.com)	**2-ESS3-1** – Communicate solutions that reduce human impact on the land, water, air, and other living things. **EARTH DAY PROJECTS** Research: Discuss how you can use household items and repurpose them into something else (Classroom Flipping Project)	**2-ESS3-1** – Demonstrate ways to reuse or repurpose items to reduce waste. **EARTH DAY PROJECTS** Build: Make and decorate your repurposed objects
April	**EARTH DAY PROJECTS** **2-ESS3-1** – Demonstrate ways to reuse or repurpose items to reduce waste. **K-2-ETS1-3** – Analyze data from tests of two objects designed to solve the same problem to compare the strengths and weaknesses of how each performs. **EARTH DAY PROJECTS** Using the same guidelines, build a bridge using repurposed household items.	Spring Recess School Closed	**2-ESS3-1** – Use observations and ideas to communicate how people impact the environment. **EARTH DAY PROJECTS** **April 22, 2026** **Earth Day celebration**	**EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS** Toddle IB Reflections
May	**Roadway and Landmark STEM Build** **K-2-ETS1-3** – Analyze data from tests of two design solutions to determine which better meets the criteria and constraints of the problem. **STEM Projects:** Using your bridge design concepts, build a roadway structure around your bridge highlighting a certain bridge landmark	**Roadway and Landmark STEM Build** **K-2-ETS1-3** – Analyze data from tests of two design solutions to determine which better meets the criteria and constraints of the problem. **STEM Projects:** Using your bridge design concepts, build a roadway structure around your bridge highlighting a certain bridge landmark **STEM Night: May 19, 2025**	**Roadway and Landmark STEM Build** **K-2-ETS1-3** – Analyze data from tests of two design solutions to determine which better meets the criteria and constraints of the problem. **Literacy:** Journal entry	**Literacy:** (Reflective**)** Reflect on your science experiences this year. Connect your experiences to specific content covered.
June	**End of year activities**	**End of year activities**	**End of year activities**	**End of year activities**